represented by the National Council of Civil Liberties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (d) The administered price (ceiling selling price) of LSHS which is also applicable to RFO has not been changed after the Budget. The administered price of this product has always been fixed exclusive of excise duty which is recoverable at the applicable rate depending on the end-use of the product. Change in the excise duty structure in the Budget is offset by MODVAT credit available on the use of RFO/LSHS.

Teak Plantation

*254. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to promote teak plantation in the country;

(b) if so, the States where steps have been taken in that regard;

(c) whether steps are also being taken to preserve the teak trees in those States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAAL NATH): (a) to)d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Trained Militants in North Eastern Region

*255. SHRI W. KULABIDHU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some Middle East countries, over and above Bangladesh and Pakistan, are giving arms training and supplying sophisticated weapons and other equipment to the various militant outfits of the North East on the soil of Bangladesh;

(b) if so, what effective steps and measures have already been taken up;

(c) what diplomatic measures have been initiated by Government with the Governments of Sudan, Iran, Afghanistan, Paikstan and Bangladesh if so, with what results;

(d) what is Government's view about the long and continuous turmoil and terrorist activities in the North East region; and

(e) what counter measures are being taken to thwart the designs of these foreign hands, and also to take up process for political reconciliation for a lasting peace in the region?

Statement

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) There are reports of certain insurgent groups in the North East being supported by the Pak ISI agents in Bangladesh for the provision of safe havens, training weapons etc. However, there is no confirmed report on receiving of arms or training by insurgent groups of North East from the Middle East Countries.

(b) and (e) The major insurgent groups stand declared as "UNLAWFUL" and the affected areas notified as "Disturbed" areas. Besides inductions of additional units of Central para Military Forces. State and District level Coordination Committees have been set up for sharing of information and effective coordination of counter insurgency operations. Over and above the modernisation grant for State Police Forces, special financial assistance (Rs. 32.60 crores) has been released to the States of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur to tackle insurgency. Efforts have been made to take up the matter with the concerned neighbouring

countries. Simultaneously renewed efforts are being made for economic development of the region. As to political reconciliation the policy of the Government has been to encourage all groups to join the national mainstream provided they abjure violence and agree to work within the framework of the Constitution.

(c) After the visit of the Union Home Secretary to Bangladesh in October, 1993 a Joint Working Group has been set up to examine in depth matters of mutual concern including matters relating to support and assistance being received by Indian insurgent groups from within the territory of Bangladesh. The first meeting of the Joint Working Group was held from 29-30 March, 1994 in New Delhi. Government have strongly urged Pakistan on several occasions and at all levels to stop its support to subversion and terrorism. Government have also apprised the international community of the dangers inherent in the support extended by Pakistan to terrorism. Government are firmly resolved to take all necessary measures to counter, support to terrorism from any source and to safeguard the unity and integrity of the nation.

(d) Eruption, continuance and sustenance of insurgency/extremism in some States of North East Region could be attributed to a multiplicity of complex inter-linked factors which are among others historical, social, economic, political etc. Such extremists elements have also received support from outside forces inimical to India's stability.

Tibetan Refugees in the Country

*256. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Tibetan refugees presently in the country;

(b) what steps are being taken for their relief and rehabilitation;

(c) what are the problems encountered in their relief and rehabilitation; and

(d) whta is the annual expenditure incurred thereon during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. HAVAN): (a) to (d) There are about 80,000 Tibetan Refugees presently in the country. Government of India has provided them relief and rehabilitation assistance for their resettlement in different States under various agricultura and handicraft schemes. No major problems have been encountered. The expenditure incurred on relief and rehabilitation of Tibetan Refugees, during the last three years, is as follows:—

Year	Amount relead
1991-92	Rs. 79.94 lakhs
1992-93	Rs. 20 72 lakhs
1993-94	Rs. NIL

Meeting of Chief Ministers of North-Eastern States

*257. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States was called recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the subjects discussed thercin and the steps proposed to be taken to ease the situation in the area?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A meeting was held with the Governor of Manipur and Chief Ministers of North Eastern States on 19th July, 1994 at Delhi. The subjects discussed were:—

(i) Liberalisation of the present permit regime.

(ii) Steps to control insurgency.

(iii) Financial discipline.